

Notes  
**WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING**

Thursday, June 13, 2019  
 State Natural Resource Building  
 101 S Webster St, Madison

<p><b>Council Members Present:</b> Gary Harter, Jarrod Holter, Dave Keeling, David Pellitteri, Heidi Woelfel, Jeff Zillich  <b>DNR:</b> Jennifer Semrau, Ariana Mankerian  <b>Public:</b> Mark Walter, Brown County Port and Resource Recovery &amp; Associated Recyclers of WI; Tom Thompson, UW-Health; Justine Thicke, Victor Wu, Naomi Salmon and Meenu Verma, JOFC</p>	
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and guests introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (March 1, 2019)	<b>Motion made</b> by Gary Harter and seconded by Jeff Zillich to approve the minutes of March 1, 2019. Motion carried (6-0).
Council Membership/ Vacancy Update	<b>Dave Keeling, Council Chair/Steel Recycling Institute (SRI)</b> reported he had emailed each council member and all wish to be reappointed. There is still one vacancy. D. Keeling has been in contact with Cassi Fenili with the Governor's office and will ask that the vacancy be filled and others reappointed.
Election of Officers	<b>D. Keeling, SRI</b> reviewed the present officers. J. Zillich nominates David Keeling to serve as Chair; seconded by G. Harter. D. Keeling nominates Gary Harter as Vice Chair; seconded by David Pellitteri. G. Harter nominates Heidi Woelfel as Secretary; seconded by D. Keeling. No other nominations were presented. Slate of officers approved by voice vote (6-0).
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p><b>Jennifer Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lola Hoon (South Central) and Nicole Cox (Northeast) have been hired as Environmental Program Associates for the regional offices.</li> <li>• Alicia Zewicki will be a landfill engineer intern in the Green Bay office for the summer, working with Valerie Joosten.</li> <li>• Caroline Cooper has been hired to fill a Hydrogeologist position in South Central, starting 6/24.</li> <li>• Upcoming recruitments include an entry level waste and materials management (WMM) engineer, a hazardous waste specialist and a communications waste management specialist.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various WMM program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recycling program sent a survey all WI MRFs seeking more information on acceptable/non-acceptable materials, materials for which they are struggling to markets and top contaminants. Approximately 75% of MRFs responded. Top materials MRFs are struggling to move are mixed bulky rigid plastics and #3-7 plastics (non-landfilled banned). In addition, ~25% of respondents cited difficulty moving mixed paper or glass. The top five contaminants were plastic bags/film, foam polystyrene, food contamination, bulky plastic and cords/light strings/tanglers. Other commonly mentioned</li> </ul>

	<p>contaminants were needles/sharps, propane cylinders and shredded paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WMM program is still awaiting word on implementation of Act 369 which placed a pause on the development and completion of new guidance.</li> <li>• The WMM program was asked to review administrative rules for obsolete code. Five rules were identified for deletion (due to the lack of the statutory authority): grants for solid waste planning, demonstration grants, recycling efficiency incentive grants, Responsible Unit alternative program and newsprint recycled content program.</li> </ul> <p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council of various legislative updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 264 proposes to make updates to the E-cycle Wisconsin program. Amongst the changes: allow all private/charter schools to be eligible for the program, reduce manufacturer registration fees, switch to a calendar year and clarify which printers are included. SB264 was introduced on 6/7.</li> <li>• Assembly Bill 177 proposes to eliminate the current preemption of local governments to regulate “auxiliary containers” (which includes a large variety of items including plastic bags and Styrofoam). It was introduced on 4/18.</li> </ul>
<p>Ag Plastics Stakeholder Meeting Summary</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> informed the council that DNR hosted an agricultural plastics stakeholder meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Natural Resources Building in Madison. Representatives of Revolution Plastics (a company providing dumpsters for no charge to farmers for the collection of ag plastics) met with leadership of DNR and DATCP in December 2018. At the meeting, Revolution shared successes, including data on ag plastics collected to-date and number of farmers participating, but also on challenges, including significant financial losses, failure of some large farms to participate and contamination issues. Revolution was inquiring on financial assistance from the state, which neither DNR nor DATCP could provide. In April, Revolution sent a letter to each county where they were doing business requesting \$600 per farm from the county. Funds sought ranged from \$2,400 to \$121,200. The letter resulted in fevered discussion on the Associated Recyclers of WI (AROW) listserv. To take the conversation in a positive direction, DNR offered to conduct a stakeholder meeting.</p> <p>DNR asked DATCP, UW-Extension and Revolution Plastics to co-sponsor the meeting, promote the meeting to its customers/contacts, present and be a part of the discussions. The meeting was offered in-person and via Skype. Approximately 50 people participated, with half online. Amongst attendees were counties, farmers, recyclers, haulers, Extension agents and the WI Farm Bureau. Presentations from the meeting can be found <a href="#">here</a>. After opening remarks/presentations from each meeting sponsor, Joe Van Rossum lead a facilitated discussion on ‘How can ag plastics recycling continue in Wisconsin?’ DNR also offered to facilitate additional meetings/discussion on this topic.</p>
<p>DNR WMM Study Group/AROW Updates</p>	<p><b>J. Semrau, DNR</b> noted that with the council discussing its 2019 priorities, it was advisable to understand what the WMM Study Group and AROW were working on to avoid duplication or to potentially collaborate. In establishing its priorities, the WMM Study Group completed a survey to first brainstorm, and then rank, potential topics. Topics were divided into landfill, non-</p>

	<p>landfill/recycling and guidance/research/legislation. While “PFAS in leachate and wastewater” was the top ranked topic, the WMM Study Group did not want to duplicate efforts of the PFAS Technical Advisory Group. Subjects the Study Group intends to focus on include functional stability at landfills, alternate capping/vertical expansions of landfills and wrapping up the work of the Construction and Demolition (C&amp;D) subgroup. Top recycling topics included: broadening focus of recycling standards from weight-based measures, recycling economic concerns, adapting materials management to a changing waste stream and creating a single definition of recycling. A recycling subgroup to work on some of these issues may be formed.</p> <p>J. Semrau was elected to the AROW Board of Directors in February and shared some of AROW’s focus areas:          Food and &amp; Organics Residual Committee (was with WMM Study Group)- food waste reduction, organics diversion          Community Education/Marketing Committee- public education with a 2019 calendar of topics, Facebook posts, press releases, campaigns at Earth Day and America Recycles Day, RecycleRight Wisconsin          Product Stewardship- PaintCare- model legislation used in several other states (Extended Producer Responsibility- EPR); batteries (proper disposal, especially lithium ion due to fire risk, potential EPR); support for E-cycle updates          Hazardous and Special Waste- propane cylinders (in conversations with NASC/U-Haul on refillable cylinders); establishing new Waste Vape Pen Management Task Force          Government Affairs- monitors national and state legislation (proposed national recycling infrastructure bill, proposed WTE residual bill, 2019 AB 177 [removes preemption ban]).</p>
<p>2019 Priorities/Goals/ Objectives/Next Steps Discussion</p>	<p><b>D. Keeling, SRI</b> stated the council has been focused on recycling markets, including tours of facilities around the state and regional market updates. There was concurrence to keep this focus. Potential sites to hold meetings in 2019 and beyond: Dynamic Recycling (La Crosse), Xcel Waste to Energy (WTE) (La Crosse), Charter Steel (Saukville), Liberty Tire (Auburndale), Goodwill Industries (Menasha), Green Bay Packaging (Green Bay), new aluminum buyer (Wisconsin Rapids- 2021). The council also discussed one meeting a year in Madison, with the next meeting possibly including an invitation to WEDC to discuss paper mill buyouts and other recycling focused businesses. D. Keeling stated Minnesota’s Pollution Control Agency is also focusing on recycling market development projects as well as the National Recycling Coalition, which will hold its next markets workshop in Albuquerque, NM on June 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>D. Keeling also discussed the goal of producing a report of the council’s activities from the past two years for the Governor and legislature. The last time any type of report of the council’s activities was developed was in 2013, related to the work of the plastics subcommittees. D. Keeling asked each council member to provide their perspective for the council report related to recycling markets or MRF experience.</p> <p><b>Action: Council members to provide contribution to council report to D. Keeling by next meeting.</b></p>
<p>Regional Market Update</p>	<p><b>David Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste Systems</b> stated he did not want to deliver a typical market update on each commodity’s price movement (although</p>

	<p>essentially all markets are lower). Instead, D. Pellitteri expressed the broader issue is that the current state is here to stay. D. Pellitteri does not foresee anything changing significantly in the marketplace for the next six months. The overall structure with MRF processing is permanently altered. Communities will need to absorb more of the financial risk associated with commodity markets (no longer contracts with floor prices). Recent press reported Milwaukee will see a 50% increase from its MRF processor and a restructured revenue share. At one site, a recycling processing cost is net \$42/ton and waste disposal is \$38/ton- higher costs to recycle than landfill. D. Pellitteri said the changing economics of recycling effect the viability of recycling. Tip rates at MRFs are commonly \$40-50/ton. Recycling was often thought to be less expensive; this is a long-term change. It causes some to ask, “why recycle?”</p> <p>J. Semrau shared she has been getting more calls from communities, haulers, businesses and the general public inquiring on what is required under the recycling law. It is important to remember that accounts from other states discontinuing recycling are not occurring here. Recycling (select materials) is still mandated in Wisconsin and every community has recycling.</p> <p>The council discussed the cost differential. It is a double-edged sword- communities should expect higher costs as 1) MRFs need to clean materials to higher standards and 2) the resulting commodities are worth less. ‘Back to basics’ recycling messaging may be needed. The types of materials accepted expanded when markets were plentiful and available. Now MRFs are focusing on core items: paper, cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass and plastic containers (#1 and #2). Pellitteri makes short (10-20 second) videos on recycling best management practices and posts them on their website.</p> <p>The council discussed it is important to share this information with communities. J. Semrau stated this has been a point of emphasis in various presentations, workshops and communications the DNR has provided RUs. The council suggested exploring Public Works or League of Wisconsin Municipalities conferences to deliver this message. J. Semrau stated DNR will be presenting at the WI Towns Association conference in Oct. 2019.</p> <p>D. Keeling stated it is also important to remember the other side of the economics of recycling- the economic activity generated by putting recycled commodities back in the marketplace as feedstock. The multiplier effect of these industries, jobs, etc. should be emphasized. Perhaps the council could partner with AROW or another organization.</p>
Public Comment	<b>Mark Walter, Brown County Port &amp; Resource Recovery</b> stated the Tri-County program (Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County) did a mailing to all households in the counties on recycling.
Other Business	None.
Next Meeting Date and Location	The council discussed holding its next meeting in the La Crosse area, with possible tours of Dynamic Recycling and Xcel WTE. The week of August 19 <sup>th</sup> appeared to be the best. Gary Harter will reach out on possible tours of these locations. Going forward the council will strive to meet approximately every two months.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm; motioned by Gary Harter and seconded David Pellitteri. Motion carried (6-0).